GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4890
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
WATER FOR AGRICULTURE
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large variation in the water rates charged for agricultural purposes by various States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the water rates being charged by each State Government alongwith the subsidy provided by them;

(c) whether the Union Government have setup an expert committee to rationalise the water rates charged for agricultural purpose in the country; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the committee and action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a large variation in the water rates charged for agriculture purposes by various States.

(b) Irrigation is a state subject and the water rates are decided by the respective state governments. The details on Statewise water rates are appended as Annexure-I.

(c) to (d) The Planning Commission set up a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyananthan i n October 91 to review the existing water rates. The Committee submitted its report i n September, 1992. Subsequently, Planning Commission constituted a Group ofOfficials (GOO) in December, 1992 withrepresentatives from Union Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Water Resources and nine major States to go into the report of the Committeeand suggest action to be taken on the various recommendations of the Committee. The GOOsubmitted its report i n December 1994, which has been accepted by the Planning Commission. The main recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee and GOO are atAnnexure-II. Since, Irrigarionis a State subject, both the recommendations of GOO and the report of the Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water have been forwarded by the Planning Commission to the State Governments for consideration and further action.
Annexure - I

STATEMENTREFFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART(B) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4890 TO BE ANSWERED IN L
SABHA ON 26.04.2000

AGRICULTURAL WATER RATES IN VARIOUS STATES / UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA

Sl. No.	Name of State / Union Territories	Water Rates (Rs./ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	148.27 to 1235.55
2.	Arunchal Pradesh	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
3.	Assam	75.00 to 375.50
4.	Bihar	74.13 to 296.53
5.	Goa	60.00 to 300.00
6.	Gujarat	25.00 to 830.00
7	Haryana	29.66 to 148.66

8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.86 to 41.09
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.71 to 289.12
10.	Karnataka	19.77 to 556.00
11.	Kerala	17.00 to 99.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14.83 to 296.53
13.	Maharashtra	50.00 to 4875.00
14.	Manipur	22.50 to 75.00
15.	Meghalaya	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
16.	Mizoram	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
17.	Nagaland	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
18.	Orissa	25.00 to 465.00
19.	Punjab	Abolished
20.	Rajasthan	19.77 to 143.32
21.	Sikkim	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
22.	Tamil Nadu	18.53 to 61.78
23.	Tripura	Not yet defined
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20.00 to 474.00
25.	West Bengal	37.06 to 123.00
26.	A & N Islasnd	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
27.	Chandigar	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
28.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	75.00 t0 275.00
29.	Daman & Diu	200.00
30.	Delhi	4.22 to 237.00
31.	Lakshdweep	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation
32.	Pondicherry	No Irrigation Water Rates is in operation

Remarks : Water rates generally vary according to the crops, season, source of irrigation and type of projects.

Includes Aqua Culture

Annexure-ll

STATEMENTREFERREDTO IN REPLY TO PART(D) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4890 TO BE ANSWERED IN L SABHA ON 26-04 −2000

A) MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF VAIDYANATHAN COMMITTEE ON PRICING OF IRRIGATION WATER

• Enhancement of irrigation rates to recover O&M costs and interest on capital costs alongwith the depreciation. This increase is to be achieved in phases. Immediate aim should be to recover O&M costsand 1% interest charges on capital costs as envisaged in the National Water Policy.

• At least 10% of the plan provision of major and medium irrigation projects to be earmarked for modernization and renovation.

• Recovery of accumulated rrears to be ploughed back for deferred maintenance/special repairs.

• Improvement in the assessment and collection of water rates.

• Revision of water charges need to be accompanied by concrete measures to provide a better and improved quality of irrigation systems and to cut the cost of providing that service.

• Irrigation and Water Pricing Board should be set up at Statelevel to review the policy, establish the norms regarding maintenance costs for various components and staff costs, assess the actual expenditure in relation to these norms and determine the parameters and criteria for revising water rates etc.

B) MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF GROUP OF OFFICIALS(GOO)

• Water rate is to be considered as service charge and not a tax and revenue through irrigation water rates should recover full O&M costs. This increase is to be achieved in a phased manner i.e. in five years.

• Two tier tariff was not found feasible, instead a suitable formation of irrigation water pricing structure has been recommended to take care of Vaidyanathan Committee's recommendation in totality based on individual State condition.

• The other recommendations made by Vaidyanathan Committee were accepted by GOO with slight modifications.